

**REMARKS**

Applicant has carefully considered the Office Action dated July 16, 2003 and the references cited therein. By this amendment, Applicant has amended Claims 12, 15, 20 and 23, cancelled Claims 11, 14 and 21 and added new Claims 24 and 25. Accordingly, reconsideration is respectfully requested.

In the Office Action, the Examiner has indicated that Claims 1-10 are allowed, and Claims 14-16, 19 and 21-23 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Applicant gratefully acknowledges this indication of allowable subject matter.

Applicant has amended Claim 12 to include the elements of Claim 14 which depends therefrom. Accordingly, Claim 14 has been cancelled and Claim 15 has been amended to depend from Claim 12. As this combination has been deemed allowable, Applicant respectfully submits that amended Claim 12, and those claims depending therefrom, patentably distinguish over the references of record.

Claim 11, which was rejected, has been cancelled without prejudice. In addition, Claim 18 has been amended to correct a typographical informality.

Claim 20 has been amended to include the elements of Claim 21. Therefore, Claim 21 has been cancelled and Claim 23 has been amended to depend from Claim 20. Accordingly, new Claim 20 corresponds to original Claim 21. In that this combination has been deemed allowable by the Examiner, Applicant respectfully submits that amended Claim

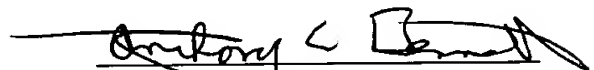
20 and those claims depending therefrom patentably distinguishes over the references of record.

Applicant has also added new Claim 24 which includes the elements of original Claims 20 and 22. Since this combination has been deemed allowable, Applicant respectfully submits that new Claim 24 patentably distinguishes over the reference of record. Applicant has also added new Claim 25 which substantially includes the limitations of original Claims 12, 13, 18 and 19. Applicant respectfully submits that Claim 25 patentably distinguishes over the references of record.

Based upon the amendments set forth above, Applicant respectfully requests favorable reconsideration of amended Claims 12, 18 and 20, favorable consideration of new Claims 24 and 25, and allowance of the application with Claims 1-10, 12-13, 15-20 and 22-25.

If the Examiner has any questions regarding this matter, he is respectfully invited to contact Applicant's attorney at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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